

Re: Proceeding #02-306

As Mayor of the City of Delano, I am urging your affirmative vote to grant SBC Pacific Bell approval to enter the long distance telecommunications market.

Several other states have already been granted approval for an open market, and their customers are experiencing significant cost savings - a real boon to most people's wallets in these times of economic uncertainty. I believe that the time has come for California businesses and residents to benefit from these savings as well.

SBC Pacific Bell has proven itself to be a good corporate citizen - providing thousands of jobs to Delano area residents and acting as a major sponsor and donor to countless community programs and services. I applaud SBC Pacific Bell for their award - winning efforts in supplier, management, and employee diversity.

Please support SBC Pacific Bell's application - they have proven themselves time and time again that they are qualified to offer long distance service to Californians.

Sincerely,

Art B. Armendariz, Mayor
City of Delano